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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

TETSUYA HARA

Application No. Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: August 20, 2001

Examiner: Unassigned

For: METHOD OF AND
APPARATUS FOR
DECODING AUDIO
DATA

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 8, with:

Fig. 7 is a block diagram showing a schematic structure of a conventional audio decoding apparatus. This audio decoding apparatus has the decoding section 1, data buffer 2, and output section 3. The decoding section 1 receives and decodes a coded digital audio data stream, such as Dolby AC-3, read from a recording medium of digital audio data, such as a DVD (Digital Video Disc), and outputs PCM audio data. The PCM audio data output from the decoding section 1 are temporarily stored in the data buffer 2 so as to cope with synchronization with image information and a fluctuation in an input bit rate of the digital audio data stream or the like. The output section 3 receives the PCM audio data from the data buffer 2 and outputs audio serial data to an D/A (digital/analog) converter or the like or output digital audio data into a digital audio interface receiver. If

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